

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office Action mailed April 5, 2007 has been carefully considered. Reconsideration in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 51, 64, and 77 were amended to further particularly point out and distinctly claim subject matter regarded as the invention. No new matter has been added.

The 35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejection

Claims 51-89 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Ginsburg et al. (USP 6,595,856) in view of Nguyen (US 2002/0071557) among which claims 51, 64, and 77 are independent claims. This rejection is respectfully traversed for the reasons, among others, discussed below.

35 USC 103(c) provides that art “which qualifies as prior art only under one or more of subsections (e), (f), and (g) of section 102 of this title, shall not preclude patentability under this section where the subject matter and the claimed invention were, at the time the claimed invention was made, owned by the same person or subject to an obligation of assignment to the same person.”

Nguyen (US 2002/0071557) and the present invention was at the time the invention was made subject to an obligation of assignment to the same person. Assignment of the present invention to International Game Technology is recorded on reel/frame 012808/0581 and assignment of Nguyen to International Game Technology is recorded on reel/frame 012808/0695.

Accordingly, it is believed the claims are now in condition for allowance. It is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

Conclusion

It is believed that this Amendment places the above-identified patent application into condition for allowance. Early favorable consideration of this Amendment is earnestly solicited and Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Applicant does not believe that any additional fees are required to facilitate the filing of this Amendment. However, if it is determined that such fees are due, please charge such additional fees to Deposit Account No. 500388 (Order No. IGT1P259).

Respectfully submitted,
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